

Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MORE GOF STATEMENTS ON CONCORDE

1. WIRE SERVICES REPORT REMARKS MADE BY STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CAVAILLE MARCH 7 UPON LEAVING ELYSEE WHERE IN COMPANY WITH PIERRE BAUDIS, DEPUTY-MAYOR OF TOULOUSE, CONCORDE WAS DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD. CAVAILLE SAID THAT GISCARD HAD INFORMED THEM OF VARIOUS PERSONAL DEMARCHES HE HAD MADE, INCLUDING TWO PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. PROBLEM IS THUS BEING DISCUSSED "AT THE SUMMIT," SAID CAVAILLE, ADDING THAT EVERYTHING HAS BEEN DONE ON THE FRENCH SIDE TO ENSURE THAT USG AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE FRANCE ATTACHES TO NEW YORK'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLEMAN DECISION. USG HAS THUS BEEN ALERTED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF "THE EFFECTS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ATTITUDE."

2. CAVAILLE REFUSED PREDICT WHAT GOF WOULD DO IN CASE NEW YORK DECISION WAS NEGATIVE. HE SAID GOF THOUGHT ITS DOSSIER WAS SOUND, EVERYTHING HAD BEEN DONE THAT COULD BE DONE, AND IT WAS NOW A UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION OF WAITING FOR NEW YORK'S DECISION.

3. AFP (AND MARCH 7 NEWS BROADCASTS) REPORT REMARKS MADE ON RADIO BROADCAST MARCH 6 BY FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD. HE IS REPORTED AS SAYING THERE WOULD BE "GREAT SURPRISE AND GREAT DECEPTION" IN FRANCE AND UK IF NEW YORK DID NOT ABIDE BY THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT'S (I.E., COLEMAN) DECISION. PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE PORT AUTHORITY COULD FLAUNT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD FAIL TO FORCE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS DECISION. IN THAT CASE THE GOF WOULD UTILIZE EVERY MEANS OF RECOURSE AVAILABLE TO IT, INCLUDING THE COURTS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE GOF HAD NOT WEAKENED ITS CASE BY STEPPING UP ITS PRESSURE ON THE US THESE PAST FEW DAYS, DE GUIRINGAUD SAID IT HAD BEEN IMPORTANT TO BRING HOME TO THE APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES THAT ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIONS TO CONCORDE JUST AREN'T BELIEVED BY FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION. WHAT IMPACT WOULD ONLY FOUR CONCORDE FLIGHTS HAVE COMPARED TO THE THOUSAND AIRCRAFT LANDING AT KENNEDY AIRPORT EVERY DAY? WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE ABOU DAOUD AFFAIR MIGHT INFLUENCE THE DECISION AT NEW YORK, DE GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT THE PROS AND CONS OF CONCORDE HAD BEEN DEBATED FOR A LONG WHILE AND HE DIDN'T THINK THAT REACTION TO THE ABOU DAOUD AFFAIR WOULD HAVE ANY DECISIVE IMPACT IN SHAPING THE DECISION ON CONCORDE.

4. PIERRE TAITTINGER, STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, STATED IN A SPEECH IN PARIS AT THE END OF LAST WEEK THAT CONCORDE'S PROBLEMS AT NEW YORK WERE NOT DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIONS BUT TO AN "ECONOMIC QUARREL." ACCORDING TO AFP, HE SAID THERE WERE THOSE (IN THE US) WHO BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL TO ABORT WHAT THEY CONSIDERED DANGEROUS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPETITION AND ALSO TO "WIPE OUT" A TECHNICAL SUCCESS REALIZED BY THE EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY.

5. AS FOR EX-FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT, IN A RADIO INTERVIEW ON MARCH 7 HE SUGGESTED FRANCE THREATEN TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO RATHER THAN BE TREATED IN SUCH A SHABBY FASHION BY THE US. RUSH

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